

(22)(AMENDED) In claim 22, line 1, please substitute --16-- for "1".

Remarks

In the Office Action dated, August 15, 2000 the Examiner indicated that claims 1-8, 13-21 and 25-27 are allowable, but claims 9-12 and 22-24 are rejected on the basis that these claims fail to further limit claims from which they depend.

In view of the amendments made herein to claims 9 and 22, Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's previous rejection of claims 9-12 and 22-24 is no longer applicable and, therefore, should be discontinued.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims, as now amended herein, overcome the Examiner's rejection raised in the Office Action dated August 15, 2000. It is also respectfully submitted that all presently pending claims are patentably distinct over the disclosures of record when the disclosures are considered either alone under 35 U.S.C. §102 or §103 or in any appropriate combination under 35 U.S.C. §103 for the reasons set forth in the Amendment dated March 30, 1999. It is further respectfully submitted that all currently pending claims are in conformance with 35 U.S.C. §112.


As a result of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application and all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Therefore, early passage of the above-reference application for U.S. patent to issuance is earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to credit overpayments or charge all fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 and §1.17 at the large entity status rate, including any and all necessary or required extension of time fees to file this or other papers in the above-identified application for U.S. patent, to Deposit Account No. 50-0951/32892.00023(Kos).

Should the Examiner have any questions or require additional information or clarification, Applicant requests that the Examiner contact the attorney of record PeterJ.Manso, at

the phone numbers noted below.

Respectfully Submitted,


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